Title: Need to ensure supply of kerosene at subsidised rates to the fishermen community in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards the serious problems being faced by the fishermen in Kerala.

Due to the unfortunate happening of the Tsunami waves, fishermen issue became very serious. The main livelihood of these poor people is fishing in the country boats, which needs kerosene. Now, kerosene has become very precious product in Kerala. The restriction on the import of kerosene and also the restricted quota allotted to Kerala has worsened the situation. Fishermen get only 30 per cent of their needs at subsidised price, that is, Rs. 10/- per litre. But the rest of the demand has to be met through open market. It costs Rs. 26/- per litre, which they cannot bear. The Government should take necessary steps to give kerosene to the fishermen at a price which they can bear. There are strong PDS and fishermen's Cooperatives in Kerala. Through IOC outlets, the kerosene with a bearable price can be supplied.

I would request the Government to take immediate action to supply kerosene to fishermen in Kerala at subsidised prices.